

REMARKS

The above-identified application was allowed in the Notice of Allowance mailed August 29, 2006. Claims 1-20 and new Claims 42-49 are pending in the instant application. Claims 21- 41 were cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer by the Examiner's amendment of August 29, 2006 as being directed to non-elected groups subject to restriction by the Examiner on May 17, 2006.

The Examiner's amendment of August 29, 2006, made the following changes to the claims:

- a) Claims 21-41 were canceled without prejudice or disclaimer;
- b) Claim 1

- a. In the definition of R<sup>3</sup>

The term "C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl", was deleted to remove non-elected subject matter,

The term "imidazopyridinyl" was inserted after "benzimidazolyl" (support for

this amendment is found as compound 50 of Table 1 (see specification, pages 60 and 17 as well as in the definition of the term "aryl" at page 22);

- c) Claim 3

- a. In the definition of R<sup>3</sup>

The term "selected from C<sub>1-4</sub>alkyl, and" was deleted without prejudice or disclaimer to excise non-elected subject matter,

- d) Claim 12

- a. The term "claim 12" was inserted in a new line under claim 11 instead of immediately after the end of claim 11; and

- e) Claim 17

- a. The first compound in lines 18-19 on page 81 was deleted without prejudice or disclaimer in order to excise non-elected subject matter.

Presently, Claim 3 has been amended to insert the term "imidazopyridinyl" in the definition of (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-aryl of the R<sup>3</sup> substituent. This amendment of Claim 3 is made to make the R<sup>3</sup> definition of (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-aryl consistent with the R<sup>3</sup> definition of (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>-aryl found in Claim 1. Support for this amendment is found in exemplified compound 50 of Table 1 as well as the definition of "aryl" group found on page 22 of the specification.

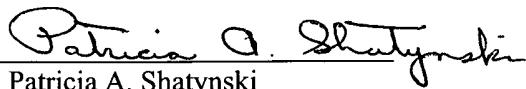
Additionally, New Claims 42-49, drawn to specific exemplified compounds of the present invention. Support for Claims 42-49 is found in the specification and the claims as originally filed.

The present amendments are fully supported by the as filed specification and claims. No new matter has been introduced by the amendment.

Applicants respectfully request the entrance of the foregoing amendments and an early and favorable action, as the application and claims are in condition for allowance.

If a telephonic communication with the Applicants' representative will advance the prosecution of the instant application, please telephone the representative indicated below. Applicants believe no additional fees are due but the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees required in connection with this response to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Respectfully submitted,

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